

August 25, 2006

To the Ocean Science Community:

We would like to extend our thanks for the dedicated participation of many individuals at the public workshop on the development of an ocean research priorities plan (April 18-20, 2006) and the many insightful public comments provided on the background planning materials (March 27-May 15, 2006).

The input from the workshop and the public comments provided essential and necessary input from the diverse ocean science communities to help the JSOST develop *Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States: Research Priorities for a Maritime Nation*, which outlines the national ocean research priorities.

Much of the public input consisted extensive and detailed comments and suggestions, which were used to formulate the high level priorities identified in the document. As a result, many of the specific suggestions are not included, but are encompassed in the broadly defined research priorities. Additionally, many of the comments focused on governance, management, and implementation, which fall outside of the scope of the current draft document, but will be useful to help develop the implementation strategy, which will occur later this year.

The draft document is now available for public review (Sept. 1-Oct. 20, 2006) [http://ocean.ceq.gov/about/sup\\_jsost\\_public\\_comment.html](http://ocean.ceq.gov/about/sup_jsost_public_comment.html). Concurrently, the document is undergoing review by an *ad hoc* committee of the National Research Council. The statement of task for this committee is available at <http://dels.nas.edu/osb/JSOST.shtml>.

The input from the public comment period and the NRC *ad hoc* committee will help the JSOST refine the national ocean research priorities and develop a comprehensive initiative to address some of the most compelling ocean research needs facing the United States today.

Thank you for your engagement and contribution to this effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Margaret Leinen (NSF) JSOST Co-chair

Dr. Richard Spinrad (NOAA) JSOST Co-chair

Dr. Dan Walker (OSTP) JSOST Co-chair